

Constantine P. (Gus) Sarkos

Gus Sarkos manages the Fire Safety Branch at the Federal Aviation Administration's William J. Hughes Technical Center near Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Fire Safety Branch conducts the FAA's Aircraft Fire Safety R&D Program and operates the most extensive civil aircraft fire test facilities in the world. He is the author of over 50 technical papers and reports related to aircraft fire safety.

Mr. Sarkos participated in or oversaw the development of the following aircraft fire safety improvements in commercial airliners worldwide: seat fire blocking layers, low heat and smoke release cabin panels, floor proximity lighting, heat resistant evacuation slides, burnthrough resistant cargo liners, Halon 1211 extinguishers, cargo compartment fire detection and suppression systems, in-flight fire resistant and postcrash fire burnthrough resistant thermal acoustic insulation, and fuel tank inerting systems.

Mr. Sarkos is the recipient of 30 awards related to aircraft fire safety R&D. Notable was his induction in the U.S. Space Foundation/NASA Space Technology Hall of Fame for his role in the development of fire test standards for seat blocking layers, and his receipt of the DOT Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement and the Rutgers Engineering Society Distinguished Engineer Award. In 2012, Mr. Sarkos received the DOT Secretary's Partnering for Excellence Award for efforts to enhance the safe transportation of lithium batteries aboard aircraft.

Mr. Sarkos joined the FAA in 1969 as a project engineer after working at the General Electric Re-entry Systems Department. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Rutgers University.